1993 introduced a 5-year tax holiday under Section 80-I A for new industrial undertakings which start production after 1-4-1993 but before 31.3.98 in any of the backward States specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Income Tax Act.

(b) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme 1971 for industrial development of centrally declared backward areas has been discontinued from 1-10-1988.

(c) The Government in 1988, announced a Growth Centre Scheme under which 70 growth centres are proposed to be developed throughout the country during the 8th Five Year Plan period. Each growth centre would be provided with basic infrastructural facilities like water, power, telecom, banking, etc., so as to attract industries to these areas.

Investment by M.N.Cs.

3154. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's recent visit to Davos brought new investment by the Multi-National Companies in power sector and other core sectors in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the total amount that is to be invested by these multinationals and foreign companies in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's recent visit to Davos to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum enabled us to present the highlights of India's Economic Reform programme undertaken since July, 1991, the positive response of the major economic indicators and the new business opportunities available for foreign investors in various sectors especially in power, hydro-carbon, telecommunications etc. The visit was also utilized to interact with representatives of multinational companies and other prospective fortign investors. However, it is too early to quantify the total amount of foreign investment likely to be made by these foreign companies.

Investment by Singapore

3155. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 535 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994 and State which are the States identified for investment by the Singapore Government in the industrial areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): The Singapore business delegates who accompanied their Prime Minister during his recent visit to India, are examining the possibilities of investing in India in various sectors. No State, in particular, has been identified by the Singapore Government for investment. However, some of the projects which are of interest to Singapore companies are in States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Haryana etc.

Voluntary retirement in PSUs

3156. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of workers who retired under Voluntary Scheme and amount of compensation paid in total and at average:

(b) what is the number of workers estimated as surplus in all the Public Sector Undertakings sector-wise;

(c) what is the estimated amount required to get voluntarily retire all the surplus workers;

(d) whether Government would encourage the trade unions to take over the viable sick units and run them on Co-operative lines; and

(e) whether Government have interacted with trade unions on the issue of workers' cooperatives to run viable sick units to avoid closure or retrenchment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) 120 PSEs who had adopted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during the last 4 years to shed surplus manpower have reported that 88,371 persons opted for voluntary retirement. The assessment about the number of employees who would be considered surplus to the requirement of the PSE has to be made by the PSE themselves. The exact number of employees who could be categorised as surplus in each PSE is, therefore, not available; The expenditure which will be incurred by a PSE which has already notified surplus manpower is also required to be assessed by the said PSE having regard to the pay scale in which such employees are working, the actual basic pay and DA drawn by them, the length of service rendered by them in the same organisation and in the previous organisation and the number of months service left before superannuation. When so many factors are evolved it is not possible to work out the average amount payable for workers or to prepare an estimate of the total amount involved to be paid to all the surplus workers.

(d) and (e) The revival of Sick Industrial Companies by workers cooperatives is one of the measures envisaged under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Some Trade Unions have suggested setting up of Workers Cooperatives during the meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee held on 20-1-1992. Government is prepared to consider viable proposals for running sick PSEs through workers' cooperatives where the workers were willing. However, the details in this regard have to be worked out based on specific proposals from workers' cooperatives company-wise.

Tender for transportation work of CCI

3157. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cement Corporation of India has recently opened a tender No. 11/(16)93-MMO, regarding allotment of transportation work of cement to various destinations;

(b) if so, how many tenders have been invited for price-bid;

(c) how many tenderers, amongst them, were allotted the aforesaid work;

(d) what was the originally quoted rate of the tenderers who have been allotted the work and at what rate the work was allotted;

(e) what was the creditability of the awardee tenderers; and

(f) the names of the tenderers who have not been invited and on what ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three tenderers, who were prequalified by the Tender Committee, were invited for price-bid opening.

(c) to (f) Since the rates quoted by the tenderers were exhorbitant, the tender was not finalised by CCI and hence no transportation work has been allotted to any of the tenderers.

खोई पर आधारित अखबारी कागज परियोजना का परित्याग किया जाना

3158. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री मूल चन्द मीणा :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार देश में खोई पर आधारित किसी अखबारी कागज परियोजना का परित्याग करने का विचार रखती है ;